List of essential medicines

2278. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have substantially expanded the national list of essential medicines;

(b) if so, whether it has added as many as 71 new medicines and deleted three from the 1996 list of 279 drugs and the number of medicines has now grown to 347;

(c) whether the list has been expanded after a gap of over six years;

(d) if so, whether Government have now decided to review the list every two years; and

(e) if so. the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the revised list has 354 drugs instead of 347.

(d) and (e) The list is to be reviewed periodically.

Reform in medical system

†2279. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant increase in the funds spent by Government on health during the last few years;

(b) if so. the amount spent during the years 1998-99 and 2002-03. separately:

(c) the system of medicine in which reforms have been carried out during the said period: and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.